

PRESIDENT ZACHARIAS ADDRESSES SENATE

The first fall meeting of the Faculty Senate, held on September 10, featured a talk by President Donald Zacharias. In his remarks, President Zacharias pledged increased visibility of the president before political constituencies, the Council on Higher Education, public schools, and professional organizations to promote WKU. He cited recent meetings in Owensboro regarding the proposed graduate center there, and in Louisville and Chattanooga with WKU alumni. He mentioned the preliminary planning for WKU's seventy-fifth anniversary celebration and the use of it as the occasion for setting our goals for the next seventy-five years of educating. He stated that because our needs are truly severe, he will not be timid in the coming biennial budget submission and is optimistic about its acceptance. He reminded us that public opinion toward higher education is not at its most favorable, and suggested that we the faculty constantly report our successes as well as our needs for salary increases. Attempts are under way, he said, to seek other (external) funding sources to support programs. We were exhorted to take time with high-school groups visiting WKU. He stated that he is impressed with the talent he has met among the faculty, but urged us to eliminate the exceptions to quality in classroom instruction. He stated that it is possible for the faculty to have input, discussion, and information, but not for them to manage the university. To the question: "How might funds be reallocated internally for salary increases?" he answered that he is looking at the issue, but has yet no plan. To another question: "Should the WKU faculty organize at the local level only?" (as opposed to acting through COSFL), he replied that local efforts will be more productive. Another question, on public service, is treated more fully below in this Newsletter.

SENATE ENTERS THIRD YEAR WITH SEPTEMBER MEETING

In the business portion of the September meeting, members of the Senate received several committee reports and made two amendments to the constitution of the Senate. A third amendment was presented for study and will be voted on in October.

Senator Joan Krenzin summarized the summer's activity of the Executive Committee, including a meeting with President Zacharias. Her report also summarized reports from Tom Jones on the activities of the Congress of Senate Faculty Leaders. (See the article elsewhere in this Newsletter for a report on COSFL.)

Senator Jim Parks announced that the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee would present a report from the subcommittee on promotions at the October meeting; the committee also has been requested to study the effect of the recent teaching load reduction on non-teaching faculty and to hold open hearings on faculty salaries, Senator Parks said.

SENATE ENTERS THIRD YEAR WITH SEPTEMBER MEETING

For the Institutional Goals and Planning Committee, Senator Mary Ellen Miller presented a written report entitled Recruitment and Retention: A Survey of Suggestions; this report is a follow-up of last spring's report on recruitment and retention and incorporates all the responses to that report which the committee received from the faculty. Each Senator has a copy; faculty members who wish to see it should see their departmental Senators.

The By-Laws, Amendments and Elections Committee, chaired by Senator Linda Pulsinelli, presented the constitutional amendments. One of those passed (amending Section III. A. 2.) makes the President of the University an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Faculty Senate. This change was made because President Zacharias' contract makes him "a member of all university organizations," a provision in conflict with the Senate Constitution as it previously stood. The second amendment approved was proposed to clarify the wording of the section of the constitution on the calling of special meetings (Section III. D. 3.); it involved no substantive change. A third amendment will, if passed in October, change the date of the election of Senate officers to May. This change has been proposed by both Phil Constans, who chaired the first Faculty Senate, and Tom Jones, current Chair, and by numerous people who have chaired standing committees. They have found that the present system of reorganizing the Senate in March has led to confusion and inefficiency during the spring semester; it is hoped that the Senate committees will be able to work better and with more continuity under the proposed new system.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR--Tom Jones

The COSFL has met twice since I last informed you of its activities, once this summer (July 13 and 14) here at Western, and Saturday, September 15, at Eastern Kentucky University. The summer meeting was held to establish a constitution (finished and adopted at 8:30 P.M., July 13) and to meet with two legislative members--Jody Richards and Steve Wilborn--who chair house committees on education.

This September's meeting--the first held since the six faculty bodies ratified the resolution calling the COSFL into existence--saw me elected to chair the group for next year, and Ron Veenker elected as secretary. Other matters dealt with were a unanimous resolution that I appoint a subcommittee to study the problems that a bill to gain parity funding for retirement programs seems to be having. It was interesting to me that Mary K. Tachau (U. of L.) and Jonothan Bushee (Northern) were most incensed to discover that professors at their institutions have it better than we, and thus they are on the subcommittee, along with Steve West from Murray. The subcommittee will report its findings at the scheduled November 10 meeting.

Another action was a unanimous motion of support--a letter to that effect to be sent to the chairs of both education committees of the General Assembly--for the effort to have a voting faculty and student member on the CHE.

I am happy to report that there were eleven of the possible twelve voting members at this meeting, and Ron and I agreed that there was a terrific spirit of excitement and adventure as to what we might try to accomplish in the coming year.

WHERE THE WORK IS DONE: THE SUB-COMMITTEES

Last year the Newsletter presented a series of reports on the work of the standing committees of the Senate. With this issue, we begin a new series, this time on the sub-committees. Because most of the standing committees have found themselves working on a number of different issues, there are numerous smaller groups, each busy on a single problem. The Communications Committee felt that faculty members would be interested in knowing just what these sub-committees are doing--hence this new feature. Below, Senator Ron Veenker writes of the Sub-committee on Promotions, of the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee.

At the first meeting of the WKU Faculty Senate, President Dero Downing asked the body to work toward the solution of several problems. His request for a new promotion policy eventually found its way to the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee (along with another three-score). The committee attacked its list with vigor, but by the end of the first year nothing had been completed on the promotion policy. For the past two years, the members of FSW have spent many long hours discovering just how complicated it can be to attempt the formulation of one general rule which will provide just treatment when applied to every case! At the end of a year's deliberation, the committee agreed on a general approach to the problem and assigned the task of writing all the details to a sub-committee. General Senate elections fractured the group once, but Agnes Adams, Mary Crisp and Ron Veenker emerged from the second summer session with a preliminary draft of a new promotion policy. It will be presented to the whole committee (FSW) for discussion and revision at the first meeting this semester. Senator Parks hopes to be able to present at least part of the new policy to the full Senate at the October meeting.

CLEARING HOUSE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

President Zacharias was asked whether there was any "central organized effort on campus for local service, as there is for international service." The question occurred in response to his remark that the faculty must meet and convince the public of the importance of higher education. The Office of Public Service and International Programs, located in the Cravens Graduate Center, room 200, in fact organizes both services, local and international. According to its director, Raymond Cravens, his office acts as broker to development districts, units of local government, agencies, businesses, industries,

other organizations and individual citizens who seek the knowledge and skills of this faculty. The July, 1979, edition of the News-Link the newsletter of this office, lists examples of public services activities for 1978-1979. Copies are available there. Last year the "Speakers and Program Service" was begun to provide a pool of expertise to clubs and organizations for programs. The office works with the Advisory Committee on Public Service, the group which drafted the Distinguished Contributions to the University Award for Public Service. This office is relatively new on campus and much of its time is given to the representation of WKU as a provider of public services. That part of our assignment long vaguely referred to as public service is gaining closer definition and sharper focus. This office can provide us access to the public.

THE ROLE OF THE FACULTY SENATE NEWSLETTER

Your Newsletter is edited by the Communications Committee of the Faculty Senate and exists to bring you each month information about the issues, committee work, resolutions, and reports of the Faculty Senate. It serves as the main line of communication between the leadership of the FS and the faculty at large. Its editors will also solicit timely statements from persons outside this faculty whose positions could affect our concerns, or whose knowledge and experience could benefit us. It is, of course, open to your contributions of information, ideas, and views which might deserve campus-wide circulation. During the coming year each Newsletter will feature one of the colleges of the University in an article written by one of its faculty members. This is designed to be a frank stock-taking of the missions, trends, and problems of the several academic units of WKU that we might better understand one another's working conditions, points of view, and place in the instructional scheme. Lastly, yet other items which your editors deem worthy of print here will be offered in an attempt to clarify or stimulate thought concerning faculty leadership in education.

NOTES

- ITEM--There will soon be available an open shelf in the Reference Section of Margie Helm Library for all minutes and reports of the Faculty Senate.
- ITEM--The revised version of the university governing statutes, the "redbook," is now available to each department through its Senator.
- ITEM--If you want to write letters about your concerns, the addresses below may be useful.

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FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

The list below is the most current one of Faculty Senate committee membership.

STANDING COMMITTEES

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Robert Melville.....	CEB 306....	2157.....	843-6716
Greg Lowe.....	AAB1-110...	4293.....	781-4657
Pat Bowen.....	CGC 906....	3951.....	842-6252
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Beverly Madron.....	GH 227....	5283.....	842-1998
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Dale Wicklander.....	FAC 159....	3296.....	842-7190
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FACULTY SENATE
communications committee
NEWSLETTER



From: Faculty Senate

To: President Donald Zacharias
Office of the President
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